Industries in tribal areas of Orissa

3182. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to set up industries in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the number of industries set up in the tribal areas in Orissa during the last three years; and

(c) the details of those units, and the number of people given employment there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Promotion of industries in rural sector including tribal area primarily falls within the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by way of measures like provision of cheap and easily available finance, trasfer of technology, assisting in the provision of scarce and critical raw material and creation of institutional infrastructure at the all India level. In order to disperse industries in rural, semi-urban and tribal areas and to provide all the services and support to small entrepreneurs including those from amongst the tribals under a single roof 422 District Industries Centres have been set-up covering all facilities to set up industries in rural and tribal areas and ensure close linkages with agencies engaged in rural development. Such DICs are functioning in the tribal areas of Orissa.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government proposes to give maximum emphasis on development of rural industries particularly cottage and tiny industries in rural and backward areas including tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Information in respect of number of units/industries set up in tribal areas, the details of such units and number of persons employed there upon is not centrally maintained.

Leather finishing units in Bihar

3183. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leather finishing units in Bihar contribute substantially to the availability of finished leather to the leather goods producing industry in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that despite running in good conditions and earning profits many leather finishing units in Bihar have been closed down rendering scores of Harijan workers jobless;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to conduct an inquiry into the matter; and

(d) if not, in what manner Government proposes to protect the interests of the workers of leather finishing units of Bihar and shortfall in the availability of finished leather therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are three units viz. (1) M/s. Bata India Ltd., (2) Bihar State Leather Industrial Development Corporation and (3) Bihar Finished Leathers Ltd. in the organised sector which mainly contribute to production of finished leather from Bihar State. All the three units are still functioning, though at a level lower than their installed capacities. There are 14 small scale tanneries in existence in various parts of the State and only some of them are lying closed. Some of the larger units in the small scale sector are functioning at more than 60 per cent capacity level. Government does not have any proposal at present to conduct an inquiry into the functioning of leather units in Bihar State. The Bihar Government, however, has initiated a number of steps, which include strengthening the management, strengthening and streamlining the production and marketing wings and helping some of the units to repay their term loans to financial institutions, to revive/revitalise the leather units of the State.